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P A P E R

IN

MANUFACTURES.

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## MANUFACTURES.

**I**N the year 1760 the Society offered premiums for making cloth from Hop-Stalks, or Bines, and subjoined to the Advertisement some directions to be pursued in preparing the Stalks, and obtaining the fibres in a fit state for manufacturing. No proper claim was ever made for these premiums; but as the want of success seems to have arisen, not so much from the impracticability of doing it, the practice being known and in use in Sweden, as from the want of proper information respecting the conducting the process; it has been judged proper to print the following Letter, which may serve to stimulate ingenious persons to make further trial of a material produced in such great quantities in this kingdom, and hitherto employed to no profitable purposes; and as a still greater inducement,

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ment, the Society have again offered a premium for the making cloth from Hop-stalks, as may be seen in this volume, under the head of Premiums for encouraging and improving Manufactures.

The process alluded to in the following letter was published by the Society in 1760, as follows :

“ The Hop-stalks or bines are to be  
“ collected in autumn, put into water  
“ and covered therewith the whole winter ; in March they are to be taken  
“ out, dried in a stove, and dressed as  
“ Flax. The prepared filaments will be  
“ fine, soft, and white, and may be  
“ spun into cloth. Hop-stalks require a  
“ longer time to rot than Flax ; and if  
“ not completely macerated, the woody  
“ part will not separate, nor the Cloth  
“ prove white or fine.”

But these directions having been found inadequate to the purpose intended, the Society, in some subsequent publications,  
added

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added the following *Nota Bene* to their Advertisements. “ It not being exactly  
“ known how long time the Hop-bines  
“ require to be steeped in water, in the  
“ manner Hemp is, in order to separate  
“ the fibrous parts from the rest, it is  
“ recommended to the candidates for  
“ the premium, to examine the Hop-  
“ bines from time to time, during their  
“ steeping, and to take them out, before  
“ the fibres appear to be too much weak-  
“ ened for the use intended; they are  
“ then to be dried, on a kiln, or in some  
“ other way; and it is required of each  
“ candidate to produce to the Society an  
“ exact account of the manner of treat-  
“ ing the Hop-bines.”

*London*

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*London, December 14th, 1761.*

S I R,

HAVING attempted the making Cloth from Hop-stalks, in pursuance of the premium and process published by the Society, I have, by desire of several Members, left some specimens of the manufacture with the Register. I beg leave to trouble you with an observation or two that may be proper to be attended to, if this subject should again be taken into consideration.

First, That the said specimens are sufficient to evince that Hop-bines will afford a material for making cloth.

Secondly, That the species of cloth intended to be made from the material produced, would very well answer the purpose of fine facking, and coarse bagging for Hops.

Thirdly,

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Thirdly, That the sole cause of my not producing a stronger material, and a sufficient quantity to have entitled me to the premium proposed, was, that the material was too long immersed under water, and its texture was thereby destroyed.

Fourthly, That such bines as I took occasionally from the large quantity I had put to soak, at the end of about six weeks or two months, afforded filaments sufficiently fine and strong for any purpose.

Fifthly, That the time necessary to reduce the inner substance of the Hop-bines to a fitness for use by maceration, will absolutely decay the outer coat, as appears from those which have continued under water above a year.

My attempts and endeavours in this matter fall very short of the success and perfection hoped for by the Society and myself,

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myself, and allow me no pretence for claiming the premium proposed.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

H. COOKSEY.

To Dr. TEMPLEMAN,  
Secretary to the Society for Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce.